

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for operating a system using a display area having a first display of a first resolution and a second display of a second resolution different than the first resolution, the method comprising:
 - 5 moving a graphical element displayed on the first display to be displayed on the second display; and
 - scaling the graphical element on the second display such that the graphical element has a different pixel size on the second display than it did on the first display.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the amount the image is scaled when displayed on the second display compared to the first display is proportional to the difference in the first resolution and the second resolution.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the first display is a high resolution display and the second display is a low resolution display.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the first display is a color display and the second display is a high resolution display.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the second display has a pixel area of at least about 1200 pixels by about 1600 pixels.
- 20 6. The method of claim 4, wherein the first display and the second display are controlled by a common processing circuit of a common workstation.

7. A method for controlling a display area having a first display of a low resolution and a second display of a high resolution, the method comprising:

obtaining a graphical element to display; and
5 allocating the graphical element to the first display or the second display based on a characteristic of the graphical element.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein allocating the graphical element comprises determining whether the graphical element is an image acquired by an imaging device, and allocating the graphical image based 10 on whether the graphical element is an image acquired by an imaging device.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein allocating the graphical element comprises allocating the image to a color display if the image is a color image.

15 10. The method of claim 9, wherein allocating the graphical element further comprises allocating the image to a high resolution grayscale display if the image acquired from the imaging device is not a color image.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein allocating the graphical 20 element comprises allocating the image to a high resolution display if the image is a high resolution image.

12. The method of claim 7, wherein allocating the graphical element comprises;

determining if there is a low-resolution image being displayed 25 on a low resolution display; and

delivering non-image graphical elements to the low resolution display when there are no low resolution images, acquired from an imaging device, being displayed on the low resolution display.

13. The method of claim 7, wherein allocating the graphical element comprises;

5 determining if there is a color image being displayed on a color display; and

delivering non-image graphical elements to the color display when there are no color images, acquired from an imaging device, being 10 displayed on the color display.

14. The method of claim 7, wherein allocating the graphical element comprises delivering all non-image data to a low resolution display.

15. The method of claim 7, further comprising identifying the 15 resolution of a display connected to the display area.

16. A method for operating a workstation adapted to be connected to a high resolution monitor and a low resolution monitor, the method comprising:

5 displaying a first graphical element on a high resolution monitor connected to the workstation at a time, where the first graphical element is scaled for high resolution display; and

displaying a second graphical element on a low resolution monitor connected to the workstation at the time, where the second graphical element is scaled for low resolution.

10 17. The method of claim 16, further comprising identifying, using software, a resolution of a monitor connected to the work station,

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising delivering graphical elements to a particular monitor based on the identified resolution of the particular monitor.

15 19. The method of claim 17, further comprising scaling graphical elements to be displayed on the monitor based on the identified resolution of the monitor.

20. The method of claim 16, wherein the high resolution monitor has a pixel size of at least about 1200 pixels by 1600 pixels.

21. A local image display system of a medical imaging system, comprising:

a workstation;

a high resolution monitor connected to the workstation; and

5 a low resolution monitor connected to the workstation;

wherein the work station comprises a processing circuit configured to simultaneously display graphical elements scaled to a high resolution on a high resolution display and graphical elements scaled to a low resolution on a low resolution display.

10 22. The system of claim 21, wherein the local image display system comprises at least two high resolution monitors connected to the workstation.

15 23. The system of claim 21, wherein the high resolution display and the low resolution display are physically connected to the workstation.

24. The system of claim 21, wherein the processing circuit is configured to dynamically scale graphical elements that are transferred between monitors of different resolutions.

25. A software program for a medical imaging workstation, comprising:

an allocation protocol that may be used to move a graphical element from being displayed on a first display with a first resolution to a second display with a second resolution that is different than the first resolution; and

a data scaling portion that dynamically scales a moved graphical element.

26. The software program of claim 25, wherein dynamically scaling the moved graphical element comprises changing a number of pixels used to display the graphical element.

27. The software program of claim 26, wherein a scaling factor is used to determine the number of pixels used to display the image on the second display.

28. The software program of claim 27, wherein the moved graphical element is plotted in a virtual space, and the scaling factor is based on the plot of the graphical element.

29. The software program of claim 25, further comprising a display protocol that allows a high resolution display to display a graphical element in high resolution and a color display to display a graphical element in a resolution appropriate for the color display at a same time.

30. The software protocol of claim 25, wherein the allocation protocol is adapted to allow a graphical element to be dragged from the first display to the second display.

31. The software program of claim 25, further comprising a hardware identification protocol that is configured to identify a type of display connected to the workstation for which the software program is operating, wherein the allocation protocol allocates graphical elements to be displayed based on the type of display identified by the hardware identification protocol.

32. The software program of claim 31, further comprising a network communication manager configured to facilitate a transfer of a medical image, acquired by a medical imaging device, from a storage device located on a network.

33. The software program of claim 25, further comprising a display protocol that allows a high resolution display to display a graphical element in high resolution and a low resolution display to display a graphical element in low resolution at a same time.

34. The software program of claim 33, further comprising a display protocol that allows a high resolution display to display a graphical element on a display having more pixels vertically than horizontally and a second display to display a graphical element on a display having more pixels horizontally than vertically at a same time.

35. A workstation for a local image display system of a medical imaging system, comprising:

a processing circuit configured to;

5 simultaneously display graphical elements of medical images scaled to a high resolution on a high resolution display and graphical elements scaled to a low resolution on a low resolution display; and

10 rescale graphical elements moved between the high resolution display and the low resolution display;

and

a high resolution monitor output connected to the processing circuit; and

15 a low resolution monitor output connected to the processing circuit.

36. The system of claim 35, wherein the processing circuit comprises a microprocessor running a software program, the software program being adapted to simultaneously display graphical elements scaled to a high resolution on the high resolution display and graphical elements scaled to a low resolution on the low resolution display, and to rescale images moved from the high resolution display to the low resolution display.

20 37. The system of claim 35, wherein the processing circuit is further configured to allocate medical images based on a type of monitor for which the medical images are best suited.

25 38. The system of claim 37, wherein the processing circuit is configured to allocate color medical images in a stack sync to a color

display and high resolution images in a stack synch to a high resolution display.

39. The system of claim 35, wherein the processing circuit is configured to allocate all non-medical-image data to a low resolution color display if no color medical images are being displayed on the low resolution color display.

40. The system of claim 35, wherein rescaling a graphical element moved between the high resolution display and the low resolution display comprises changing a number of pixels used to display the graphical element.

41. The system of claim 35, wherein;

the processing circuit is further configured to allocate a graphical element to a high resolution display or a low resolution display; and

15 a different number of pixels would be used to display the graphical element on the high resolution display than the low resolution display.